(c) As such the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, which has been operational since February, 2006, does not seem to have any adverse impact on the agricultural production and productivity.

**Fodder bank**

1947. SHRI SHARAD ANANTRAO JOSHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is providing Central funds to the States for the establishment of fodder banks in the States to meet the exigencies in natural calamities;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the funds released to Maharashtra, so far, for the purpose and the results achieved therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The component relating to the establishment of fodder banks was dropped from the concerned scheme with effect from 1.4.2005.

(c) Before the closure of the subject component, the State of Maharashtra was released an amount of Rs. 41.25 lakhs in 2001-02 and a similar sum in 2004-05. While the funds released in 2001-02 for establishment of a fodder bank in District Beed were utilized, the funds released in 2004-05 were refunded by the State Government.

**Financial assistance for horticulture to Goa**

1948. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any scheme/schemes to give financial assistance to the State Governments for the development of horticulture;

(b) if so, the names of the schemes available with respect to various plantations/crops;

(c) the essential features of each of the schemes; and

(d) the details of the financial assistance given to the Government of Goa in the matter of each of the schemes, in the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) The Department of Agriculture and Cooperation is implementing two Centrally Sponsored Schemes, namely Technology Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture in the North-Eastern States (TMNE) including Sikkim, Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand and the National Horticulture Mission (NHM) in the remaining States and Union Territories for the development of horticulture. Under these schemes, assistance is provided for production and distribution of quality planting material of elite cultivars, establishment of new gardens, rejuvenation of senile plantations, adoption of new technologies, protected cultivation, promotion of Integrated Nutrient Management/ Integrated Pest Management, organic farming, creation of water resources, Human Resource Development through training and visits, development of infrastructure for post harvest management and marketing.

(d) The State of Goa is covered under the NHM scheme, which was launched during the year 2005-06. An amount of Rs. 518.39 lakh was provided to State Horticulture Mission, Goa during the last three years including Rs. 3.19 lakh during 2007-08 for implementation of NHM programme in the State.

**Latest farming knowledge to farmers**

1949. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any attempts to deliver the latest farming knowledge to farmers;

(b) if so, the details including the public agencies associated with the above and the grant allocated and spent by the above agencies in the last three years, year-wise, category-wise and State-wise;

(c) if so, the number of farmers accessed with above public agencies, like Krishi Vigyan Kendra in the last three years, State-wise and category-wise; and

(d) the steps taken in detail to control the input dealers who are having vested interest and promoting in excessive chemical pesticide/new transgenic seeds, etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) The Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Support to State Extension Programmes for Extension Reforms" was launched in May, 2005. Its objective is to support State Governments efforts in revitalization of the extension system by promoting a new institutional arrangement for technology dissemination in the form of an Agriculture Technology Management Agency (ATMA) at district level. The scheme is under implementation across the country.

(b) Under Extension Reforms (ATMA) Scheme farming knowledge is being disseminated through ATMAs. A statement containing the State-wise and year-wise funds released by Government of India and expenditure reported by the States is given at Statement I (*See* below).

Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has established a network of 558 Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) in the country aiming at technology assessment, refinement and demonstration of technology/products. The KVKs are sanctioned under Agricultural Universities (AU), ICAR Institutes, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), State Governments, Public Sector Undertakings, Deemed Universities/Central Universities/Other Educational Institutions. The State-wise, category-wise and year-wise details of funds provided to the host organizations of the KVKs during last 3 years is given at Statement-II.

(c) Over 16.50 lakh farmers have been accessed with ATMA like public agencies through their participation in extension activities such as exposure visits, training, demonstrations and Kisan Melas since inception of the programme. The State and year-wise details are given in Statement-III (*See* below).

Over 6.60 lakh farmers have benefited through activities of KVK during last 3 years. The State and category-wise details of number of farmers is given in Statement-IV (*See* below).

(d) Dealers for pesticides are licenced by the State Governments as per provisions of Insecticides Act. The quality control under the Insecticides Act, 1968 provides for adequate